



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
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WILDFIRE PROTECTION BUILDING CONSTRUCTION "CBC CHAPTER 7A" TASK FORCE (2017)

MEETING NOTES – JUNE 26, 2017

Attendees:

Bill Hendricks
Bill Robertson
Crystal Sujeski
David Bueche
David Castillo
Don Oaks
Edith Hannigan
Ethan Foote
Greg Andersen
Joe Hetzel
Jose Elias
Kathy Butler
Kevin Reinertson
Marcelo Hirschler
Mark Mondragon

Pete Munoa
Robert Raymer
Roger LeBrun
Ryan Boykin
Spencer Meyer
Steve Quarles
Stuart Tom

(Apologies if others may have joined
either on Skype or on the conference line
that were missed in the attendees list)

AGENDA TOPICS

1. Welcome

Greg Andersen called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members participating via teleconference were asked to email their contact information to either crystal.sujeski@fire.ca.gov or greg.andersen@fire.ca.gov.

2. Meeting Objective

Greg Andersen went over the details of the rulemaking cycle. The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) will be submitting their rulemaking package to the Building Standards Commission June 2018 for the 2019 code adoption cycle, which goes into effect January 2020.

Proposals for the 2019 California Building Code Chapter 7A will be developed by this taskforce. It is the goal of the kick-off meeting to identify issues that should be considered. This includes the items that were tabled from the Taskforce for the 2016 Intervening code cycle. Brainstorming and new issues will be discussed.

3. Issues that were discussed.

- **Opening Protection (subgroup 1)-**

- Skylights- a subgroup of the Task Force would like to see if future code changes should address some type of auto closing device on operable skylights. A realistic fire ember intrusion test should be developed. Until that test is developed, a prescriptive approach (e.g. screen) should be explored.
 - Full-scale experiments of roofing assemblies exposed to wind-driven firebrand showers have shown firebrands may accumulate on the surface of various roofing types. The interface of the roofing assembly with a skylight may be another potential firebrand accumulation point, and as a result, potential pathway for firebrands to enter the structure.
 - Code reference 708.A.2.1
 - Skylight materials – tempered vs. laminated
- Garage Doors- The next subgroup of the Task Force will need to continue to explore ways to make garage door openings more resistant to fire. This will include market availability of weather stripping products with improved fire performance via an approved fire test (e.g. ASTM E1354); preferred standards of quality/performance for weather stripping, assessment to variations of door-styles and equivalent protection afforded to all door-types, and weatherability of products to minimize owner service and continuing maintenance requirements.
 - While the suggested use of weather stripping/seals to reduce gaps between doors and openings to 1/8" or less may be a first step to resist firebrand intrusion for garage doors, the subgroup should consider developing specific plans regarding experiments to actually quantify the ability of these recommendations to resist garage door firebrand entry and subsequent structure ignition.
- Roger Le Brun or Joe Hetzel to chair the sub-group for openings (split garage door and skylight)

- **Accessory Structures (subgroup 2)-** Substantial changes to the CBC/CRC requirements should be fully explored. This includes developing prescriptive requirements, identifying acceptable effective ignition resistant building construction methods that are more practical than applying the full CBC/CRC provisions for outbuildings, sheds, carports, and similar structures, (e.g. require a carport to have CBC Chapter 15 approved Class A roof covering instead of requiring a full Class A roof assembly). For accessory structures.

- Consideration should be given to requiring gypsum board protection for some exposed wood materials when appropriate, in exterior walls or doors.
- Other non- building elements to be considered for discussion to include plastic benches, 'fencing assemblies', play structures, etc.

Thoughts to provide guidelines like defensible space requirements (i.e. T-19, T-14, Fire Code).

- Kathy Butler or Marcelo Hirschler to chair subgroup
- **Ignition resistance (subgroup 3)** - This subgroup on ignition resistance for exterior walls will consider that the fire performance of exterior walls need to be improved because it has been shown that many standard wood products, without modification, can comply with the requirements of item 5 of section 707 A.3 and that the exposure to flying brands is a key consideration in terms of the fire hazard in wildland urban interface fires. The subgroup will consider if the best way to move forward with this item is to use an existing test method already contained within the CA code, namely the roofing test ASTM E108 or UL 790.
 - The sub- group will explore
 - the intent of 707A.3 exception 1
 - the interface of vertical to horizontal construction elements (dormers, skylight, bird stopping, etc.)
 - David Castillo will chair the subgroup
- **Decking (subgroup 4)** – A subgroup will look at SFM standard 12-7A-4A
 - Marcelo Hirschler will chair the subgroup
- **Heavy Timber (subgroup 5)** – The subgroup will consider correlation of 707A.8 under floor protection with CBC 602.
 - What was the intent of the exception for heavy timber? (deck only)
 - Will the exception impose risk to the structural stability of the building?
 - Propose clean up code language
 - Crystal Sujeski will chair the subgroup

5. Action Items

Crystal Sujeski will send out an invite for the next meeting for Aug 31, 2017, and rosters for the subgroups and request for member participation in the subgroups.